

John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program.

16 U.S.C. 1421(f-l)

Sec . 408. (a) IN GENERAL. —

(1) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall conduct a grant program to be known as the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, to provide grants to eligible stranding network participants for the recovery or treatment of marine mammals, the collection of data from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research regarding marine mammal health, and facility operation costs that are directly related to those purposes.

(2)(A) The Secretary shall ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, funds provided as grants under this subsection are distributed equitably among the stranding regions designated as of the date of the enactment of the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act of 2000, and in making such grants shall give preference to those facilities that have established records for rescuing or rehabilitating sick and stranded marine mammals in each of the respective regions, or subregions.

(B) In determining priorities among such regions, the Secretary may consider —

- (i) any episodic stranding or any mortality event other than an event described in section 410(6), that occurred in any region in the preceding year;
- (ii) data regarding average annual strandings and mortality events per region; and
- (iii) the size of the marine mammal populations inhabiting a geographic area within such a region.

(b) APPLICATION. — To receive a grant under this section, a stranding network participant shall submit an application in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe.

(c) CONSULTATION. — The Secretary shall consult with the Marine Mammal Commission, a representative from each of the designated stranding regions, and other individuals who represent public and private organizations that are actively involved in rescue, rehabilitation, release, scientific research, marine conservation, and forensic science regarding stranded marine mammals, regarding the development of criteria for the implementation of the grant program and the awarding of grants under the program.

(d) LIMITATION. — The amount of a grant under this section shall not exceed \$100,000.

(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — The non-Federal share of the costs of an activity conducted with a grant under this section shall be 25 percent of such costs.

(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS. — The Secretary may apply to the non-Federal share of an activity conducted with a grant under this section the amount of funds, and the fair market value of property and services, provided by non-Federal sources and used for the activity.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. — Of amounts available each fiscal year to carry out this section, the Secretary may expend not more than 6 percent or \$80,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS. — In this section:

(1) DESIGNATED STRANDING REGION. — The term `designated stranding region' means a geographic region designated by the Secretary for purposes of administration of this title.

(2) SECRETARY. — The term `Secretary' has the meaning given that term in section 3(12)(A).

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2003, to remain available until expended, of which —

(1) \$4,000,000 may be available to the Secretary of Commerce; and

(2) \$1,000,000 may be available to the Secretary of the Interior.